Ban on the transfer of land in the scheduled areas to non-tribals

65. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a Memorandum submitted to Government, the National Advocacy for Development of Indigenous, a network of adivasi groups, NGOs and civil society groups demanded a ban on the transfer of all land in the scheduled areas to non-tribals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have demanded for setting up of a separate Committee to review the classification and diversification of land by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In a memorandum submitted at the National Level Consultation on Natural Resource Management and Governance in Tribal Areas held in New Delhi on 6-7 June 2006, the National Advocacy Council for Development of Indigenous People (NAC-DIP) have, among other things, requested:

(i) To ban transfer of all land in Scheduled Areas to non-tribals in the line of the Andhra Pradesh Regulation of 1970.

(ii) To set up an independent Committee comprising of Anthropologists, Adivasi leaders, affected people and Gram Sabha Members to review all the acquisition and diversion of land by the government, in the Scheduled areas, which has led to their displacement. The committee must also go into the details of illegal acquisition of land or encroachments carried out by various development and projects and return the land with adequate compensation.

Aid for development of forest villages

†66. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the aid provided to Uttaranchal for development of forest villages during last year and current year;

(b) the number of proposals received from Government of Uttaranchal for declaring more villages as forest villages;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether forest villages have been declared after considering the proposals received from State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) As reported by the State Government of Uttaranchal, there are no notified forest villages in the State, though, there are certain habitations located on forest lands, which are locally known as Khattas/Goths/Taungiya villages. The State Government has been planning to convert these habitations into revenue villages. The Ministry has not received any proposal for declaring more villages as forest villages and no such provision exists. The State Government has submitted a proposal seeking fund for development of 41 tribal dominated villages located in the vicinities of forest areas. As there are no forest villages in Uttaranchal, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not released funds to the State Government under the programme for development of forest villages.

Consideration of the ST (Reorganization of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005

67. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheduled Tribes (Reorganization of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 is likely to be considered by Parliament in the ensuing session; and

(b) the details of essential features of the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005, introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2005, seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded, to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including rights to collect and trade the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights.